

Message Text

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - SUGGESTED US REMARKS FOR
OPENING SESSION

REF: OECD PARIS 24478

FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR AMBASSADOR TURNER'S OPENING
COMMENTS. IF FURTHER POINTS RESULT FROM ADDITIONAL
INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION HERE, WE WILL CABLE THEM
PROMPTLY.

THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST-WEST
RELATIONSHIPS SINCE THE LAST COCOM LIST REVIEW. IN GENERAL,
THESE DEVELOPMENTS REFLECT A GROWING INTEREST ON THE PART
OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE
AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN ENLARGED TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF COCOM. THESE DEVELOPMENTS
IN TERMS OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS ARE INTER-
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CONNECTED WITH BENEFICIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GENERAL RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS.

THE PROCESS THAT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IS GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS QUOTE DETENTE UNQUOTE. THIS IS INDEED A PROCESS

RATHER THAN A DEFINITIVE EVENT. WE BELIEVE IT IS PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD AS A LESSENING OF TENSIONS AND A TREND IN DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS A BROAD FRONT OF RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE. FOR THE UNITED STATES, THESE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS GROW OUT OF THE SUMMIT MEETINGS AND BASIC AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR AND THE PRC AND ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VARIOUS COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN TRADE AND OTHER FIELDS THAT HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

WITH RESPECT TO THIS PROCESS OF DETENTE, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SAID THAT WE HAVE APPROACHED THE QUESTION OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS QUOTE WITH DELIBERATION AND CIRCUMSPECTION AND AS AN ACT OF POLICY NOT PRIMARILY OF COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY UNQUOTE. (SEPTEMBER 19, 1974 STATEMENT TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE) IN LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIPS SINCE 1971 THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY REVIEWED THE QUESTION OF COCOM AND HOW WE SHOULD VIEW ITS FUTURE. THE RESULT OF OUR EXAMINATION OF THE COCOM RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN TO REAFFIRM ITS IMPORTANCE AND ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE TO A WORLD IN WHICH THE TENSIONS OF THE COLD WAR HAVE GREATLY DIMINISHED. AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE INCREASING COMMERCIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL ENTERPRISES, IT IS PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE PRECAUTIONARY ARRANGEMENTS CHARACTERIZED BY COCOM ARE KEPT FIRMLY IN PLACE.

IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIPS AS SUCH, SINCE THE LAST LIST REVIEW PERHAPS THE OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC FACT OF THE PERIOD IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ECONOMIES OF MANY OF THE FREE WORLD COUNTRIES ARE BESET WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF INFLATION. FOR MANY
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MEMBER COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AMONG THEM, THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP. EACH OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IS PART OF THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE MEET TODAY.

IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, HOWEVER, TO FIX ON THESE NOVEL ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD SITUATION, IMPORTANT AS THEY ARE, IF IT LEADS US TO OVERLOOK THESE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.

THE MILITARY POWER OF THE COMMUNIST WORLD HAS NOT
DIMINISHED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

INDEED, IN SIGNIFICANT AREAS THE COMMUNIST
WORLD SEEMS BENT ON ADDING TO ITS FORCES IN BEING.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ALL OF US HAVE A STAKE IN THE
SUCCESS OF THE DETERRENT STRATEGY WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING
SO EFFECTIVELY, THESE MILITARY FACTS MUST GIVE US PAUSE.
ON THE ONE HAND, WE SHOULD PURSUE ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EXPANDED PEACEFUL TRADE WHICH THE PRESENT DETENTE

CAN PROVIDE; BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MUST STILL BE
VIGILANT TO INSURE THAT OUR SECURITY TRADE CONTROLS
REMAIN INTACT AND EFFECTIVE. WE MUST, IN SHORT, BE
WILLING TO TRADE WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD BUT NOT IN
STRATEGIC GOODS OR TECHNOLOGY.

ON THIS BASIS, OUR TASK HAS NOT CHANGED FROM WHAT IT
HAS BEEN IN OTHER LIST REVIEWS. OUR FUNDAMENTAL
PURPOSES ARE UNCHANGED, OUR COMMON INTERESTS ARE THE
SAME. THE JOB BEFORE US IS TO REFINES THE LIST OF ITEMS
TO MAKE SURE, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, THAT WE REMOVE FROM
THE LIST ANY ITEM WHICH NO LONGER MEETS THE STRATEGIC
CRITERIA AND ADD TO IT ANY WHICH NOW BELONG ON IT. KISSINGER

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